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The Gap

Who will you be an Ezekiel to?

TEXT Ezekiel 22:30

ASK Who is God calling you to be an Ezekiel to?



God meets us in our gaps so that we learn how to stand in the gap for somebody else.

1

Prayer Has to Move Outward

Prayer begins upward with God, then God begins dealing inward with me. But it cannot stop there. There is an “us” built right into the prayer Jesus taught us — our Father, give us, forgive us, deliver us.

Matthew 6:9

“Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name.” Upward: Your name, Your Kingdom, Your will.

Matthew 6:11–13

“Give us this day our daily bread... forgive us our debts... deliver us from evil.” Never “give me” — always “give us.”

Matthew 6:8

“Your Father knows what you need before you ask him.” He already knows; prayer is not informing God, it is joining Him.



REMEMBER

Christianity was never meant to shrink down to my blessing, my need, my breakthrough. There is an us. If I stay in His presence long enough, I start carrying names.

2 The Secret Place Changes What I Carry

Jesus tells us where this kind of life is developed — behind a shut door where there is no platform, no microphone, no audience. Nobody knows whose name you called or how long you stayed. But God does.

Matthew 6:6 

"When you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret."



REMEMBER

The secret place isn't only where I go hoping God will change something for me. It is where God changes something in me — until "God, help me" becomes "God, reach him. God, save my father. God, don't let my friend go."

3 God Speaks in the Unfamiliar Place

Ezekiel was a priest. His world was supposed to be Jerusalem, the temple, sacred service. Instead his story opens in captivity in Babylon, beside the Chebar canal — far from everything familiar. And that is exactly where the heavens open.

Ezekiel 1:1 

"The heavens were opened, and I saw visions of God" — among the exiles, by the Chebar canal, not in Jerusalem.

Ezekiel 1:3 

"The word of the LORD came to Ezekiel the priest..." God is not limited to the temple, the system, or the expected place.



REMEMBER

You prepared for one life and life gave you another one. Don't assume God cannot find you there. God refuses to waste the unfamiliar place — He can meet you, speak to you, form you, and transform you in it.

God Teaches Ezekiel to See — The Watchman

The priest becomes a prophet. God sends him to a stubborn, resistant people and settles the job description: you carry the message, you stay faithful, and their response belongs to them.

Ezekiel 2:3–5 

"I send you to the people of Israel... whether they hear or refuse to hear." Deliver the message; leave the response to them and to God.

Ezekiel 3:17 

"Son of man, I have made you a watchman for the house of Israel." A watchman sees, pays attention, recognizes danger, and sounds the alarm.

Ezekiel 3:18–19 

If the watchman warns and they will not turn, he has delivered his soul. He doesn't cause the danger or control it — but if he sees it, he cannot pretend he didn't.



REMEMBER

You are responsible for the message. You are not responsible for the response. You are not their savior — there already is one, and His name is Jesus. Your responsibility is faithfulness. Watch, and when God says speak, speak.

5

God Shows You the Gap So You Will Pray, Not Just Complain

In Ezekiel 22 God walks Ezekiel through the whole problem like a courtroom — and there is no easy villain. The princes, the priests, the prophets, and the people are all in it.

Ezekiel 22:6 

"The princes of Israel... have been bent on shedding blood." The leaders are corrupt; power is being abused.

Ezekiel 22:26 

"Her priests have done violence to my law and have profaned my holy things." The people who should have known better compromised truth.

Ezekiel 22:28 

"Her prophets have smeared whitewash for them, seeing false visions..." Covering what is broken instead of confronting it.

Ezekiel 22:29 

"The people of the land have practiced extortion... they have oppressed the poor and needy." The people were participating too.



REMEMBER

Not everything God shows you is something He wants you to talk about. Most times He shows you because He wants you to pray. Maybe God didn't show you because He wanted another critic — maybe God is recruiting a watchman.

6

An "Us" Church — God Looks for Someone to Stand

God sees the corruption, the compromise, the injustice, the gap — and then He starts looking for somebody. Not somebody who can fix everything or save everybody. Somebody willing to stand before the One who can.

Ezekiel 22:30 

"I sought for a man among them who should build up the wall and stand in the breach before me for the land... but I found none."



REMEMBER

The tragedy wasn't that there was no gap, or that nobody could see it. The tragedy was that nobody would stand there. God doesn't need a room full of spectators. He needs a house full of intercessors. "I can't fix it, I can't change their heart — but I know the One who can, and I'll stand here."

Jesus — Our Great Intercessor

Somebody has already stood for every one of us. Peter couldn't see what was coming; Jesus could. Peter didn't know enough to pray the prayer he needed; Jesus prayed it for him.

Hebrews 7:25 

"He always lives to make intercession" for those who draw near to God through Him.

Luke 22:31-32 

"Simon, Simon, behold, Satan demanded to have you... but I have prayed for you."



REMEMBER

Imagine being that person in somebody else's life. You were hurting — "I prayed for you." You were wandering — "I prayed for you." You couldn't see what was happening — "I prayed for you." Maybe there was a season when you weren't praying, but somebody was.

The Response

One name. Not the story, not the problem, not the history — one first name. Who is God calling you to stand for?

- ✓ Write one first name on the paper and bring it forward.
- ✓ Don't just listen while we pray — stand with us. We're an us church.
- ✓ Carry that name into the secret place with you this week.
- ✓ Don't take them there to complain about them or to tell God how they should change — take them there to stand.
- ✓ Pray: God, meet them in their Babylon. Speak in the unfamiliar place. Reach where I cannot reach.
- ✓ Let God work in you while you pray for them — frustration into compassion, anger into mercy, fear into trust, criticism into intercession.

Ezekiel 22 says, “I sought for a man...” God was searching for somebody willing to stand — and I don’t want Him searching this house and finding none.

We need to find ourselves a man. A woman. A mother. A father. A friend. A church. People willing to say, “I’ll stand.”

The secret place isn’t only where God changes our circumstances. It is where God changes us until we begin to carry His heart for other people.

Who is God calling you to be an Ezekiel to? Carry their name into the secret place. Stand in the gap.